## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported at specification page 4, middle. Claims 2-6 have been amended in a non-limiting manner to improve readability. New Claims 7-15 find support in amended Claim 1 and at specification page 4, middle. New Claims 16, 17 and 18 find support in Examples 1-8 at specification pages 12-17. No new matter has been added.

By the above amendment the presently claimed traction drive fluid composition has been focused on a preferred embodiment of the invention as described at specification page 4, middle, where the component (A) base oil is a hydrogenated product of the dimer of certain alicyclic compounds or a certain cyclohexane ring-bearing compound. Such compounds are used in the Examples present in the specification, where Reference Example 1 and Reference Example 2 at specification pages 10-12 provide particular species as now claimed.

In addition, Applicants' claimed traction drive fluid comprises, as component (B), at least one polymer having a weight average molecular weight in the range of 8,000 to 40,000 selected from among (a) hydrocarbon polymers each comprising as a constituent at least 10 mole% of a monomer bearing a cyclic structure, (b) hydrocarbon polymers each comprising at least 25% of quaternary carbon atoms in the backbone chain, and (c) hydrogenated products from the polymers (a) and (b). Comparative Examples 1-4 at specification pages 14-16 all show the poor results obtained when either the molecular weight limitation of the claims is not met, or the backbone chain does not comprise at least 25% of quaternary carbon atoms. See, e.g., the table of results at specification pages 18-19.

The obviousness rejection over Ishida and Matsuno is traversed. Neither of these references discloses the presently claimed component (A) base oil for traction drives, or the particular combination of components (A) and (B) herein as now described in the amended claims.

Ishida discloses the use of naphthenic compounds of reference formulae (1)-(7). See cols. 1-3 of the reference. Additives (A)-(F) are described at col. 4, lines 6-31. However, none of these components, nor the preferred species thereof disclosed in Ishida, meet the requirements of the present claims with regard to components (A) and (B) herein. The same is true of Matsuno, describing the use of certain polycyclic hydrocarbon compounds (A) and (B) (cols. 3-4) optionally with a mineral or synthetic oil (col. 7, lines 55ff). Because even the combination of Ishida and Matsuno fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention the rejection over these references should be withdrawn.

Yoshida does not cure the deficiencies of Ishida and Matsuno. Although the reference discloses derivatives of bicyclo [2, 2, 1]heptane used in fluids for traction drives, Applicants' presently claimed Component (B) is neither disclosed nor suggested. Rather, synthetic oils are suggested at col. 8 of the reference. As noted above, Applicants' claimed component (B) provides an important benefit herein, and when either the molecular weight limitation of the claims is not met, or the backbone chain does not comprise at least 25% of quaternary carbon atoms, poor results are obtained. See, e.g., the Tables of results at specification pages 18-19, noting Comparative Examples 1-4 which have molecular weights outside the claimed range or which use a backbone chain that does not comprise at least 25% of quaternary carbon atoms :

TABLE 1

| | Reference Example 1 | Reference Example 2 | Example 1 | Example 2 | Example 3 | Comp. Example 1 | Comp. Example 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kinematic viscocity @ 40° C., $mm^2/s$ | 17.32 | 20.23 | 22.01 | 24.05 | 21.27 | 42.72 | 20.68 |
| Kinematic viscosity @ 100° C., $mm^2/s$ | 3.578 | 3.572 | 4.307 | 4.649 | 4.162 | 7.971 | 4.033 |
| Viscosity index | 77 | 13 | 101 | 110 | 94 | 161 | 85 |
| Viscosity decrease after shear stability test, % | −0.1 | −0.1 | −0.6 | −0.9 | −0.5 | −31.5 | −0.2 |
| Traction coefficient @ 140° C. | 0.077 | 0.070 | 0.077 | 0.077 | 0.077 | 0.077 | 0.077 |

| | Comp. Example 3 | Example 4 | Example 5 | Comp. Example 4 | Example 6 | Example 7 | Example 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kinematic viscocity @ 40° C., $mm^2/s$ | 23.18 | 26.41 | 28.31 | 32.48 | 24.87 | 25.06 | 26.12 |
| Kinematic viscosity @ 100° C., $mm^2/s$ | 4.622 | 4.53 | 4.84 | 5.339 | 4.275 | 4.737 | 4.891 |
| Viscosity index | 116 | 72 | 87 | 95 | 56 | 108 | 110 |
| Viscosity decrease after shear stability test, % | −0.7 | −0.9 | −0.9 | −7.3 | −2.8 | −1.1 | −2.3 |
| Traction coefficient @ 140° C. | 0.074 | 0.071 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.077 | 0.077 |

TABLE 1-2

| | Comp. Example 2 | Comp. Example 3 | Example 4 | Example 5 | Comp. Example 4 | Example 6 | Example 7 | Example 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kinematic viscosity @ 40° C., $mm^2/s$ | 20.68 | 23.18 | 26.41 | 28.31 | 32.48 | 24.87 | 25.06 | 26.12 |
| Kinematic viscosity @ 100° C., $mm^2/s$ | 4.033 | 4.622 | 4.53 | 4.84 | 5.339 | 4.275 | 4.737 | 4.891 |
| Viscosity index | 85 | 116 | 72 | 87 | 95 | 56 | 108 | 110 |
| Viscosity decrease after shear stability test, % | −0.2 | −0.7 | −0.9 | −0.9 | −7.3 | 3'2.8 | −1.1 | −2.3 |
| Traction coefficient @ 140° C. | 0.077 | 0.074 | 0.071 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.077 | 0.077 | |

As noted at the top of specification page 20, the invention traction drive fluids provide improved viscosity index and excellent shear stability without lowering the traction coefficient, in contrast to the Comparative Examples. Because Yoshida fails to make up for that lacking in Ishida and Matsuno, the rejection over this reference should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections, and the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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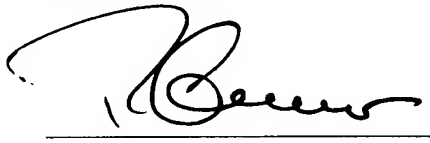

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